



NEWS AND INFORMATION from the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA
3000 Racquet Club Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684
www.gtbayymca.org

Contact: Tom Van Deinse, CEO, 231-933-YMCA (9622), tvd@gtbayymca.org or Dave Eitland, director of development and marketing, 231-933-YMCA (9622), dave@gtbayymca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIRST STEPS IN BUILDING NEW YMCA IN TRAVERSE CITY BEGIN

“It has been a dream of the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA for a long time,” says Tom Van Deinse, CEO. “We are beginning the process of building the New YMCA on Silver Lake Road in Traverse City by creating the much needed athletic fields. Construction begins on those fields today.”

The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is currently in the process of building a new health and fitness campus after many years of planning. Through this planning, the YMCA was able to clearly set a master plan that will eventually build a 175,000 sq. ft. \$25.5 million project. The plan will be implemented in phases as donations and gifts come in for the project. The first essential phase of the project will cost \$14.5 million providing 89,000 sq. ft. in swimming pools, fitness centers, indoor track, two gymnasiums, indoor and outdoor aerobic studios, locker rooms, and other necessary space to make this YMCA superbly functional.

“We have already begun to build the programs to fill the region’s needs,” according to Van Deinse. Because of the drastic shortage in the region, the YMCA will be building a day care at the new campus. When some 9,600 sq. ft. became available in the same building as the Y Gymnastics Center, the Board of Directors took this opportunity to open a new Day Care Center on Woodmere in February in anticipation of the coming New Y Day Care. “The new Day Care program has 22 children enrolled and is right on track in reaching its licensed capacity of 56 preschoolers and infants.”

The Lacrosse program at this YMCA is one of the fastest growing sports. The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA has three teams that compete on a varsity level, teaching both boys and girls at all skill levels. Lacrosse, soccer and football continually have the challenge of a lack of athletic fields. The YMCA Board has chosen to move ahead in building two lacrosse size fields, 100 parking places, a maintenance garage, and an entry sign on the 20 acres it owns on Silver Lake Road. “Again, it is because of the growth of the programs, fulfilling community needs, and the generosity of many capital campaign donors that we are able to take this step,” said Van Deinse. (Lacrosse fields are 30 feet longer than a standard soccer or football fields.)

The New YMCA Capital Campaign has raised \$5.3 million of its goal of \$11.2 million to break ground on the essential phase of the project. "We continue to form more volunteer committees, write grants, make presentations to interested people and organizations, and tell them that we need an additional \$5.8 million before the New Y essential phase will be built," says Van Deinse. "We want to be very clear that the building of the athletic fields is just one of the steps in building the entire project. We will not break ground on the essential phase – the building itself - until we secure another \$5.8 million. We need everyone's critical financial support in a major way to make this project a reality." The Grand Traverse Bay YMCA is conducting this campaign in partnership with the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

More information on the construction of the athletic fields and other YMCA programs can be obtained on our website at www.gtbayymca.org or calling 933-9622. Since 1964, the Grand Traverse Bay YMCA builds strong kids, strong families and strong communities.

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